



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Meeting Minutes: May 13 , 2004

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chairperson Phil Worby (QC Labs) called the meeting to order at 9:39 AM. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded and passed.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that both Laboratory certificates and ACPL's for FY2005 have a release date of June 16, 2004. Air certification applications are due in by June 1, 2004. Applications can be found on the OQA website. Ms Werner also indicated that OQA is in the process of moving again.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the PT samples for the SHW program shipped late from SPEX due to some problems with the sharing of information from the Homogeneity and Stability Studies. All samples except for TCLP metals should have been received. OQA was not satisfied with the VHS studies done for the TCLP metals. In June the office will observe SPEX prepare the samples. Ms Werner reports that the due dates for the SHW study are different from the different vendors. Laboratories must follow the instructions with the samples.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the samples for the WP PT study for June 2004 have been ordered. This is the first time that samples will not be shipped to laboratories that have not sent in their payment. Purchase orders will be accepted. The samples should ship by the middle of June. The samples will not be whole volume. Ms. Werner states that a May 21, 2004 letter explains the timeline for the June study.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that there was a mix-up with some reports sent out from APG for the December study. APG used the limits from the VHS studies in determining if a laboratory passed the study instead of the NIST limits. When enforcement sent out suspension letters, these laboratories stated they had information from APG that they had passed the study. The OQA is not pleased with APG's performance. Suspensions from the December study are in effect at this time and letters should be received within one week.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) wants to inform laboratories that receive a suspension letter that they must pass a PT study, send a corrective action report and a letter to Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) requesting to have the suspension lifted. Ms Werner also wants to inform laboratories that passing a PT study does not guarantee certification. Each laboratory must submit an SOP and all supporting data to the OQA for review.

Terrie McIntyre (Merck) stated that the volatile PT study samples sent from ERA were missing certain compounds. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that some of the volatile organic compounds are in the BNA sample and laboratories should analyze using their certified method.

NELAC Update: Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) stated that Dr. Mike Miller wanted to inform the committee that the accrediting authority work group is meeting every week and working on analyte method codes and method technology keys.

Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the OQA had their audit and is waiting for a letter. During the audit the office was informed by Lara A utry (Executive Director of NELAP) that no PT Provider can withhold the VHS data from the laboratories. NELAC will hold an AA teleconference call on August 2nd before the NELAC conference. Any state can have assessors on the call.

Bioassay: No report

By-Laws: No report

Communications and OQA Website: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that the website bulletin board is updated regularly at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/bboard.html>. The B.E.A.C.H. monitoring program update is on the website and the VHS memo to laboratories on the requirements about choosing a PT vendor is on the website. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) states that the latest list of approved providers can be found at the NIST website <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/scopes/calchem.htm> There are twelve providers at this time. Ms. Werner warns laboratories to check that the provider is certified for that parameter when you order PT samples.

Tom Greci (ECM) had no report for communications.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water/PWTA: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) states that the Drinking Water Round Table will probably be scheduled for August – September. The Electronic Deliverables will not be ready this summer. It will be piloted in September and will not be available until winter.

Ms. Bonnette states that there are a lot of questions being asked about the Disinfection Byproduct rules. There should be a talk on this topic during the roundtable. Three letters will be sent out discussing Disinfection Byproducts reports and analyses on bulk systems, groundwater systems serving >10,000 and groundwater systems serving <10,000. Surface water systems should have been following the Disinfection Byproduct rules since 2002 and a letter will be sent to them last.

Ms. Bonnette stated that Pat Bono has forwarded questions raised during the discussion on GPS at the April ELAC meeting to the GIS group. There will be a new PWTA bulletin posted after the questions are answered.

Tom Greci (ECM) requested some feedback on why the groundwater standard for lead is 10 ppb but the drinking water limit is 15 ppb. He stated that this information is confusing for homeowners. Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-OQA) replied that she would forward this question to Sandi Krietzman.

Site Remediation: No report.

New Business

B.E.A.C.H. program: Marty Hackman informed the committee for Deb Waller that laboratories must be certified for Enterococcus using EPA method 1600 to perform beach monitoring for private and public beaches. The commercial MEI agar has loose fitting lids and the method requires tight fitting lids. At this time the commercial media is not approved for this method. The contact for this program is Virginia Loftin at virginia.loftin@dep.state.nj.us

Meeting Topics: Phil Worby encourages individuals with ideas for extra meeting topics to send him the information by email. He will try to make the arrangements.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30AM on June 10, 2004 – 4th. Floor Conference Room.

NJDEP Notice: The DEP has revised current building security procedures to reflect actions that must be taken by employees and visitors at all times, as determined by the Domestic Preparedness Task Force. The change below will be implemented immediately:
All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.